# Characterization of particle and gas phase pollutant emissions from heavy- and light-duty vehicles in a California roadway tunnel



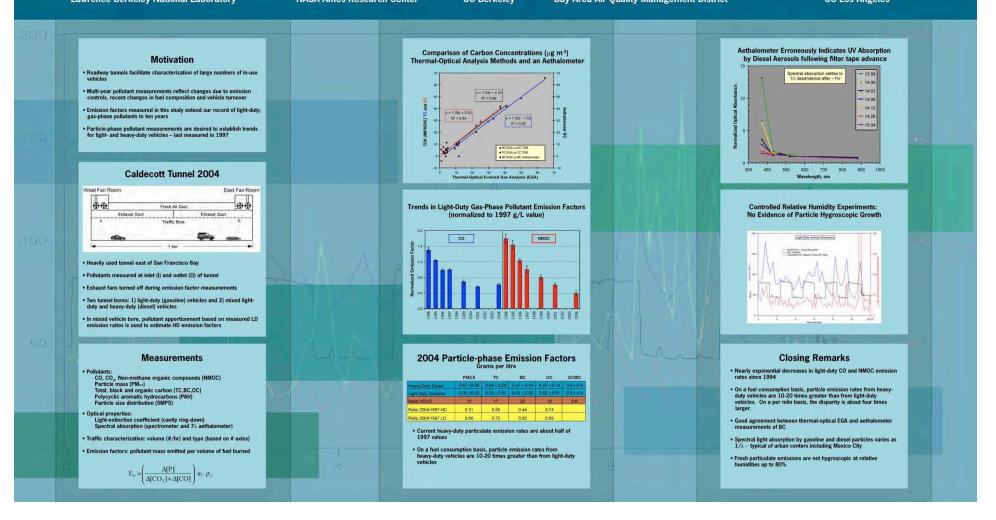
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## Indoor Exposures to Outdoor Contaminant Releases Summary of Experiments at Joint Urban 2003

LBNL Indoor Research Team:

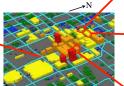
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### Introduction

In the event of an outdoor release of a chemical, biological or radiological material in an urban area most people will be in buildings, which is where most critical exposures occur. A series of outdoor tracer gas releases were conducted in Oklahoma City, OK, in July 2003 as part of a program to understand air flow and contaminant dispersion within complex urban areas. In conjunction with these tests, LBNL scientists performed experiments in three buildings located in the





red by building height category







Single Bag Sampler

- sampling interval Deployed in pairs to provide sequential sampling
- Bags changed man to provide six hour coverage



### **Indoor Study Objectives**

Joint Urban 2003 provided an unprecedented opportunity to examine the coupling between outdoor releases and indoor exposures. The indoor experiments were designed to address three broad questions:

- How do exposures to occupants in various parts of a building differ and how do they compare with exposures outdoors?
- How effective are proposed response strategies such as r manipulation of the building's i cooling system - for reducing indoor exposures?
- What are the transport pathways for airborne materials into buildings under various operating conditions?

The experimental data can also be used to examine the coupling between interior and exterior transport models and to develop and calibrate multizone contaminant transport models.

### **Experimental Description**

Detailed building investigations were conducted during April and May, 2003, in preparation for the

- HVAC flows and operations
   Building pressure manipulation to evaluate envelope leakage
   Building HVAC zones and interconnections

During the July study, indoor experiments were conducted during four of the ten outdoor tracer release periods. Two tests were done under normal daytime building operations. Two other experiments examined shelter- or near-shelter conditions, i.e., periods when most of the HVAC systems were shut down.

Each experiment consisted of three 30 min outdoor SF6 releases, one every 2 hrs. In addition, three perfluorocarbon tracers (PFTs) were released at selected locations within each study building to examine indoor transport and dispersion. The indoor tracer releases, each 5 min long, were timed to coincide with the first and third outdoor tracer releases during each experiment.





## Results

Instrumentation

Tracer gas concentration profiles were integrated to estimate exposures at various locations within the buildings, under both normal (HVAC on) and shelter (HVAC off) conditions. Indoor exposures were calculated using indoor concentrations measured during the 2 hours after the first outdoor tracer release. The corresponding outdoor exposures were estimated from the concentration profiles measured at the building

Three multiplexed gas chromatographs (GCs) were deployed in two buildings for tracer gas sampling at selected interior and exterior locations. Measurement cycle time was ~ 4 min for \$F6\$ and ~ 7 min for the PFIs. Forty-five multi-bag and 35 pairs of single-bag samplers were distributed indoors and outdoors (near buildings). Post-experiment tracer gas analysis was performed with GC-ECD systems to measure both \$F6\$ and PFT concentrations. Assorted differential pressure, temperature, relative humidity, and flow instruments were deployed within and outside the

In addition to comparing the indoor and outdoor exposure estimates under different building operation conditions, the effects of an 'optimal' shelter strategy were also estimated. This strategy assumes that building occupants evacuate the building when the outdoor tracer concentrations drop below the indoor tracer concentrations (typically 5 to 15 min after the end of the release).



### Summary

- Occupant exposures can vary significantly both between buildings and within a single building.

  Sheltering in buildings can be an effective means of reducing exposure to outdoor contaminant plumes.

  Turning off the HVAC system can further reduce exposures (but most effective when prior to plume arrival).

  Optimized sheltering can have significant benefits, but evacuation to outdoors requires knowledge about outdoors.